

REMARKS

Concerning Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-90, 93-95), with traverse. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Accordingly, Applicants traverse this restriction requirement and respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Concerning Election of Species

The Office Action further required that should Group I be elected, then Applicants must elect one of several sub-species. Claim 1 is recognized as generic.

Having elected Group I, with traverse, Applicants hereby elect the following sub-species, with traverse, from each of the species groups as follows: Group 1, sub-species b. Figure 8 (claims 50 and 59 readable thereon); Group 2, sub-species a. none; Group 3, sub-species a. none; Group 4, sub-species b. Figure 4B (claims 25 and 37 readable thereon); Group 5, sub-species a. none; and Group 6, sub-species b. Figure 4A, (ii) laminated together layers (claim 39 readable thereon).

Applicants believe that no undue burden exists for any search for examination of each of the species. The requirement by the Office that Applicants select a sub-species across each of the species indicates that they are not mutually exclusive. Accordingly, Applicants traverse this election of species requirement and respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn.

Applicants further request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

Applicants expressly reserve his/her right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Applicants request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 509152000500. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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